

We claim:

1. An immunogenic composition for protecting humans against human parainfluenza virus (hPIV) infection comprising a Sendai virus and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
2. The composition of claim 1 comprising between 1×10^5 - 1×10^8 plaque forming units (pfu) of said Sendai virus.
3. The composition of claim 1 formulated for administration to the upper respiratory tract.
4. The composition of claim 1 formulated for topical application.
5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said composition is formulated for administration in a form selected from the group consisting of a spray, one or more droplets and an aerosol.
6. A method for protecting a human subject against systemic human parainfluenza virus (hPIV) infection comprising administering to the subject an effective immunizing amount of a composition comprising a Sendai virus and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein said composition is administered to the upper respiratory tract.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein said composition is administered in a form selected from the group consisting of a spray, one or more droplets and an aerosol.
9. The method of claim 6 wherein said composition is administered to said subject by a means selected from the group consisting of intranasal administration, intravenous administration, intramuscular administration, subcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, and administration to mucous membranes.
10. The method of claim 6 wherein said composition elicits an hPIV-1 specific immune response in the group of cells consisting of B-cells or T-cells (CD4+ and/or CD8+ T-cells), or a combination thereof.
11. The method of claim 6 wherein said subject is a human.
12. The method of claim 11 wherein said human is less than 10 years old.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein said human is less than 5 years old.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein said human is less than 1 year old.

15. The method of claim 6 herein said effective immunizing amount is between 1×10^5 - 1×10^8 plaque forming units (pfu).
16. A method for enhancing the immune response of a subject previously infected with hPIV to a subsequent hPIV infection comprising administering to the subject an immunizing amount of a composition comprising a Sendai virus and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.